

RBS and RUS, USDA

§ 4284.621

of economic activity, such as land values.

Long-term. The period of time covered by the three most recent decennial censuses of the United States to the present.

Planning. A process to coordinate economic development activities, develop guides for action, or otherwise assist local community leaders in the economic development of rural areas.

Priority communities. Communities targeted for Agency assistance as determined by the USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development. Priority communities are those that are experiencing trauma due to natural disasters or are undertaking or completing fundamental structural changes, have remained persistently poor, or have experienced long-term population decline or job deterioration.

Project. The result of the use of grant funds provided under this subpart through technical assistance or planning relating to the economic development of a rural area.

Rural and rural area. Any area other than a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants including the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town. The population figure used must be in accordance with the latest decennial census of the United States.

State. Any of the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Sustainable development. Development planned and designed to consider and balance environmental quality, economic needs, and social concerns.

Technical assistance. A nonconstruction, problem solving activity performed for the benefit of a business or community to assist in the economic development of a rural area. The Agency will determine whether a specific activity qualifies as technical assistance.

United States. The 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the

United States, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

[64 FR 71986, Dec. 23, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 63538, Oct. 15, 2002]

§§ 4284.604–4287.619 [Reserved]

§ 4284.620 Applicant eligibility.

(a) Grants may be made to public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes on Federal or State reservations and other Federally recognized tribal groups, and cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents and that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the members.

(b) Applicants must have sufficient financial strength and expertise in activities proposed in the application to ensure accomplishment of the described activities and objectives.

(1) Financial strength will be analyzed by the Agency based on financial data provided in the application. The analysis will consider the applicant's tangible net worth, which must be positive, and whether the applicant has dependable sources of revenue or a successful history of raising revenue sufficient to meet cash requirements.

(2) Expertise will be analyzed by the Agency based on the applicant staff's training and experience in activities similar to those proposed in the application and, if consultants will be used, on the staff's experience in choosing and supervising consultants.

(c) Any delinquent debt to the Federal Government shall cause the applicant to be ineligible to receive any RBOG funds until the debt has been paid.

§ 4284.621 Eligible grant purposes.

(a) Grant funds may be used to assist in the economic development of rural areas by providing technical assistance for business development and economic development planning. Grant funds may be used for, but are not limited to, the following purposes:

(1) Identify and analyze business opportunities that will use local rural materials or human resources. This includes opportunities in export markets,